



**DELAINE EASTIN**  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
EDUCATION**

721 Capitol Mall

P. O. Box 944272

Sacramento, CA

94244-2720

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND STATE PLAN OCTOBER 1, 1999 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2001**

#### **ATTENTION: ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN CALIFORNIA'S CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

Every two years, the federal government requires states, territories, and tribes that receive funds through the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) to prepare and submit a plan detailing how these funds will be allocated and expended. The California Department of Education (CDE) has been designated in State law to be the Lead Agency responsible for administering the CCDF in California and, therefore, is required to submit the CCDF State Plan.

Enclosed is a summary of California's proposed CCDF State Plan ("Plan") that the CDE will submit to the federal government on July 1, 1999. This summary highlights the Plan's major provisions, activities, and services. This proposed Plan is in compliance with current State law and regulations. When new laws are enacted, the Plan will be amended accordingly.

A copy of the complete proposed CCDF State Plan will be available via the Internet beginning the week of May 3, 1999, at the following World Wide Web address:

[http://www.cde.ca.gov/cyfsbranch/child\\_development/plan.htm](http://www.cde.ca.gov/cyfsbranch/child_development/plan.htm)

Individuals who do not have their own access to the Internet should be able to obtain access at most local public library branches throughout California. In addition, a hard copy of the document will be available for examination at each Child Care Resource and Referral agency and at each Local Child Care and Development Planning Council office in California. Depending upon mail service, these copies should be available beginning May 10, 1999.

As part of the State Plan preparation process, federal law requires the Lead Agency to convene public hearings to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the provision of child care services under the Plan before it is submitted. In accordance with these requirements, three public hearings will take place as follows:

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|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Tuesday, May 25, 1999:</b>   | State Office Building 8 Auditorium<br>714 P Street<br>Sacramento<br>Time: 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.               |
| <b>Wednesday, May 26, 1999:</b> | Fresno Diagnostic Center, Conference Room<br>1818 West Ashlan Avenue<br>Fresno<br>Time: 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Thursday, May 27, 1999:</b>  | William Bristol Civic Auditorium<br>16600 Civic Center Drive<br>Bellflower<br>Time: 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.     |

If you need directions to any of the public hearings, you may contact Lucy Rhodes at (916) 323-1333.

Provisions of the 1998-99 Budget Act have resulted in a modification of the previous process for the public's review of the draft State Plan. In developing previous Plans, the CDE conducted extensive statewide informal public input sessions. Based on the input received, the CDE developed quality improvement activities that became part of the Plan. The list of those proposed activities was widely distributed for public comment, after which formal public hearings were held. After the public hearing process had been completed, the proposed Plan was forwarded to the Department of Finance.

Provision 7(d) of Item 6110-196-0001 of Chapter 324, Statutes of 1998, states,

"The State Department of Education shall establish expenditure priorities for the 1999-2000 fiscal year that set forth the proposed state and local activities to improve child care, including the reasons therefore, to be undertaken in the 1999-2000 fiscal year. This plan shall be submitted in a format developed in consultation with the Department of Finance and shall be submitted to the Office of Child Development and Education and then to the Department of Finance at least 30 days prior to the commencement of public hearings on the proposed plan and no later than March 31, 1999."

As a result of this provision, the opportunities for public comment will be limited to the formal public hearing process described in this announcement. The State Plan development process this year is as follows:

- The proposed State and local activities to improve child care were submitted to the Department of Finance and the Office of Secretary Hart on March 31, 1999.

- The complete draft Plan, including the proposed State and local activities to improve child care, will be posted on the Internet and will be mailed to all Resources and Referral agencies and Local Planning Council offices by May 7.
- Formal public hearings will be conducted during the last week of May 1999, and written testimony will be accepted until May 27, 1999, as described in this announcement.

***Guidelines for public testimony, whether verbal or written:***

The focus of the public hearings is exclusively on the draft Plan, and testimony, both verbal or written, must address its contents only. To assist in preparing testimony, the following guidance clarifies what is to be included.

***The public hearing is:***

- An opportunity for individuals and organizations to provide comments on specific items contained in the proposed Plan. Please reference the section number, heading and page number in each comment.
- An opportunity to indicate support, opposition, suggested changes, additions, or deletions pertaining to specific items. Please offer constructive solutions in your statement.

***The public hearing is not:***

- A forum to recommend law or regulation changes. These comments should be addressed through the legislative process.
- A forum to discuss any of the proposals currently under discussion in the legislative process or to advocate for any specific proposed legislative bills. These comments should be saved for legislative hearings.
- A forum to discuss how funds are allocated by the State Legislature for child care and development programs. Those concerns should be addressed in legislative budget hearings.
- A forum to describe general problems or concerns about California's child care and development services delivery system.

The public hearings will begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. Those persons wishing to testify will be asked to sign in upon arrival and will be called forward to testify in the order of sign-in. Each testifier will have four minutes and thirty seconds to present. Each public hearing will continue until 7:00 p.m. unless all persons wishing to testify have had an opportunity to do so, in which case, the hearing may be closed before 7:00 p.m. Please bring five written copies of your testimony with you to the hearing.

In addition to testimony at the public hearings, written testimony will be accepted, and may be submitted by mail, fax, or e-mail. ***All written comments must be received by May 27, 1999.***

**Via Mail:** Written comments on the proposed Plan should be addressed to:

State Plan Public Hearing Coordinator  
California Department of Education  
Child Development Division  
560 J Street, Suite 220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Via Fax:** Please use the following Fax number for written comments:

(916) 323-6853

**Via E-Mail:** Please use the following address:

statepln@cde.ca.gov

All comments or testimony, whether in writing or presented orally at one of the public hearings, must be related to specific items in the proposed Plan. Commenters and testifiers must identify the section number, heading, and page number of the Plan upon which they are commenting. Comments or testimony that do not reference specific sections in the Plan may not be considered or reviewed.

The purpose of the federal Child Care and Development Fund is to increase the availability, affordability, and quality of child care services. Your comments and suggestions will help ensure that the CCDF State Plan being proposed will fulfill this purpose. Thank you for all that you are doing for California's children.

If you have questions about the CCDF public hearings, please contact Margaret Shortt, Child Development Consultant in the California Department of Education, Child Development Division, at (916) 323-1345; FAX: (916) 323-6853; or E-mail: mshortt@cde.ca.gov.